

# Annual Monitoring Report

2023 / 2024

## Introduction

This report highlights the main findings from the National Youth Agency's (NYA) Annual Monitoring survey (AMS) which Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) are required to complete as a part of their Joint Negotiating Committee (JNC) validation process. The data collected supports the Education and Training Standards Committee (ETS) to maintain a clear picture of the professional youth work training landscape in England and to develop its strategy. It is also used by the NYA to inform its youth workforce strategy and supports HEIs in the development of their own youth work courses.

## Executive Summary

### Programmes

In 2023/24 there were 21 HEIs offering 35 programmes, of which all provided full data for this report. Overall, this represents an increase of five new programmes being offered since last year. This is primarily due to the introduction of the apprenticeship degree programme in September 2023. In total seven new apprenticeship degree programmes were offered in 2023/24 [1].

The number of postgraduate programmes remains unchanged at 12 programmes. The number of undergraduate programmes has dropped to 16 courses (from 18 courses in 2022/23).

### Recruitment and Diversity

Overall, recruitment of new students in 2023/24 has increased by 15 per centage points from 223 in 2022/23 to 263 in 2023/24. This increase is driven entirely by the addition of 149 students recruited to the degree apprenticeship. The numbers of students recruited to the traditional undergraduate and post graduate courses has dropped by about a half since 2022/23. For these courses, undergraduate recruitment fell from 117 in 2022/23 to 55, and postgraduate recruitment fell from 106 in 2022/23 to 59 in 2023/24.

There is no change in gender diversity, with seven out of 10 students enrolled in courses being female. While new students remain most likely to be Christian, the numbers of students reporting either Muslim or no religion has seen a drop – with only eight students reporting Muslim (down from 26 in 2022/23) and 14 no religion (compared with 20 in 2022/23). When considering new student recruitment by ethnicity we find that the proportion of White students has increased by 14 per centage points to 74% of all students. The proportion of new students with a disability continues to increase, from 28% in 2022/23 to 37% in 2023/24, although the proportion of students registered disabled is very low (2%).

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[1] Two new apprenticeship courses are offered in Greater London and the North West respectively, with one course being offered in the North East, South West and Yorkshire and Humberside.

## Staffing

HEIs in total employ 107 FTE staff across programmes. This equates to 5.3 students for every member of staff. 78% of these are JNC qualified. Overall, the ratio of students to staff has increased since last year. For undergraduate courses this average has increased from 4.9 to 5.3 and for postgraduate courses from 2.8 to 4.4 students per member of staff.

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## Placements

The proportion of placement supervisors who are JNC qualified (by course) has dropped by 10% between 2022/23 and 2023/24 to 66%. The number of placement agencies and placement supervisors per course remains largely unchanged - however, agencies per student shows a drop from 0.93 in 2022/23 to 0.76 in 2023/24 there is also a drop in ratio between supervisors and students from 0.88 to 0.7 in 2023/24.

## Outcomes

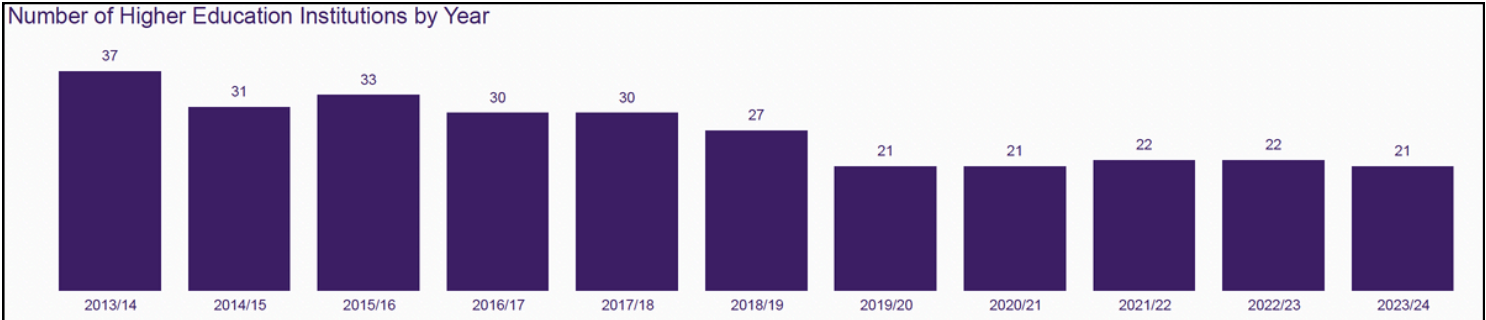
Completion rates for full time Level 5 and 6 students remain unchanged. Completion rates for Level 4 students are at their highest in over five years. However, completion rates for postgraduate students continues a three year trend of decline – dropping by over 10 percentage points to 60%.

Voluntary sector and local authority employers typically remain the most common graduate destinations. Of data that HEIs were able to collect, specialist agencies account for nine percent of graduates and eight percent went into further study. Two percent of graduates were unemployed in the last year.

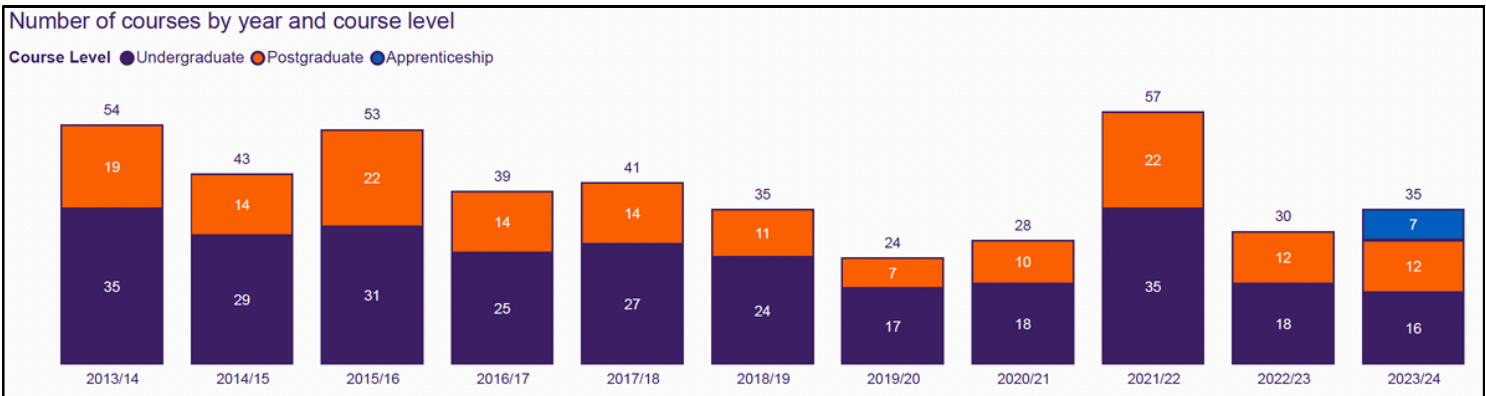
# Analysis

## HEIs and programmes

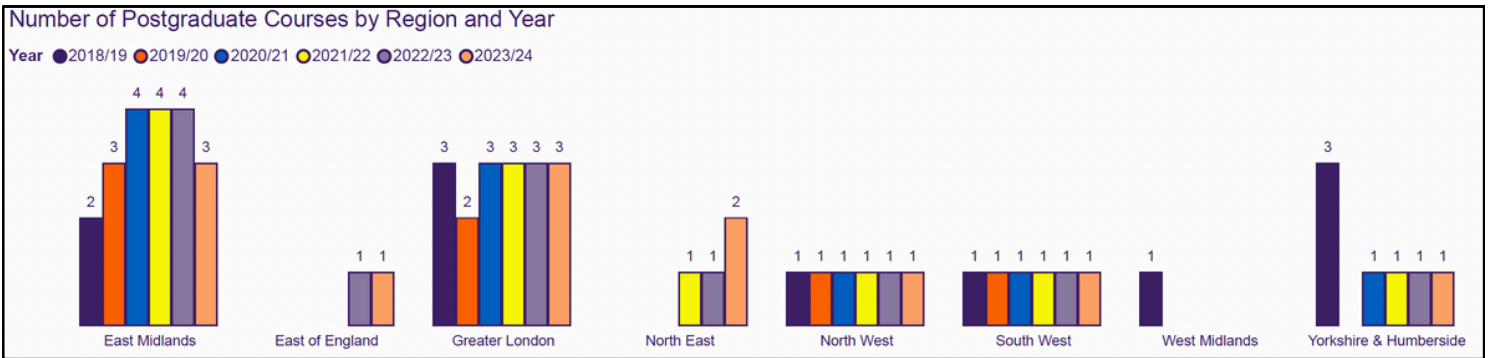
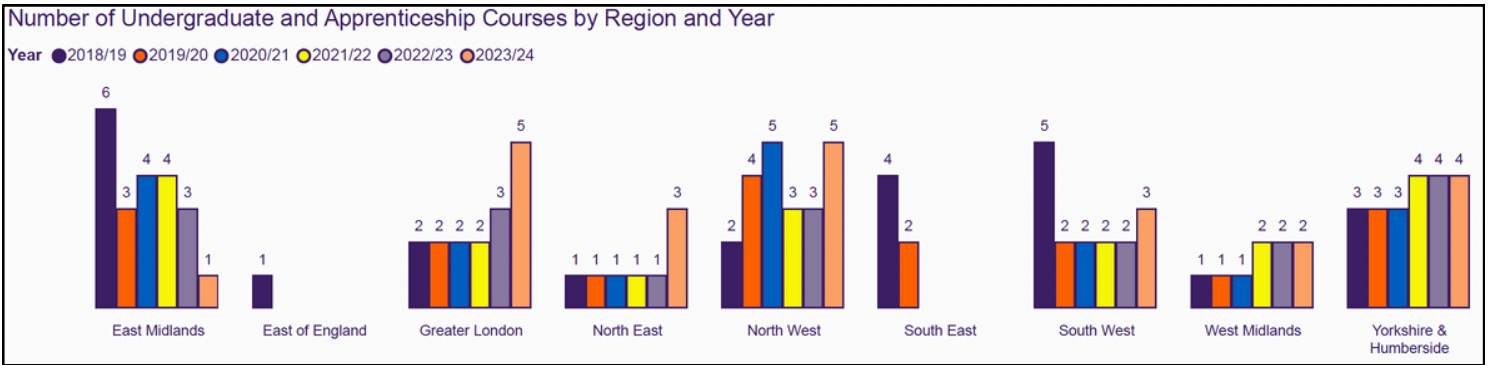
The number of HEIs providing data remains largely consistent over the last four years following a decline to 2019/20. There has been a decrease in one HEI offering youth and community work programmes since 2022/23.



The number of courses mirrors this trajectory, falling to a low of 24 courses being offered in 2018/20. The number of undergraduate courses has dropped slightly to 16 in 2023/24 while the number of postgraduate courses remains stable (12). However, last year also saw the introduction of the apprenticeship degrees at seven HEIs, which means, that overall, across all HEIs, the total number of courses in 2023/24 has risen from 30 in 2022/23 to 35 in 2023/24.

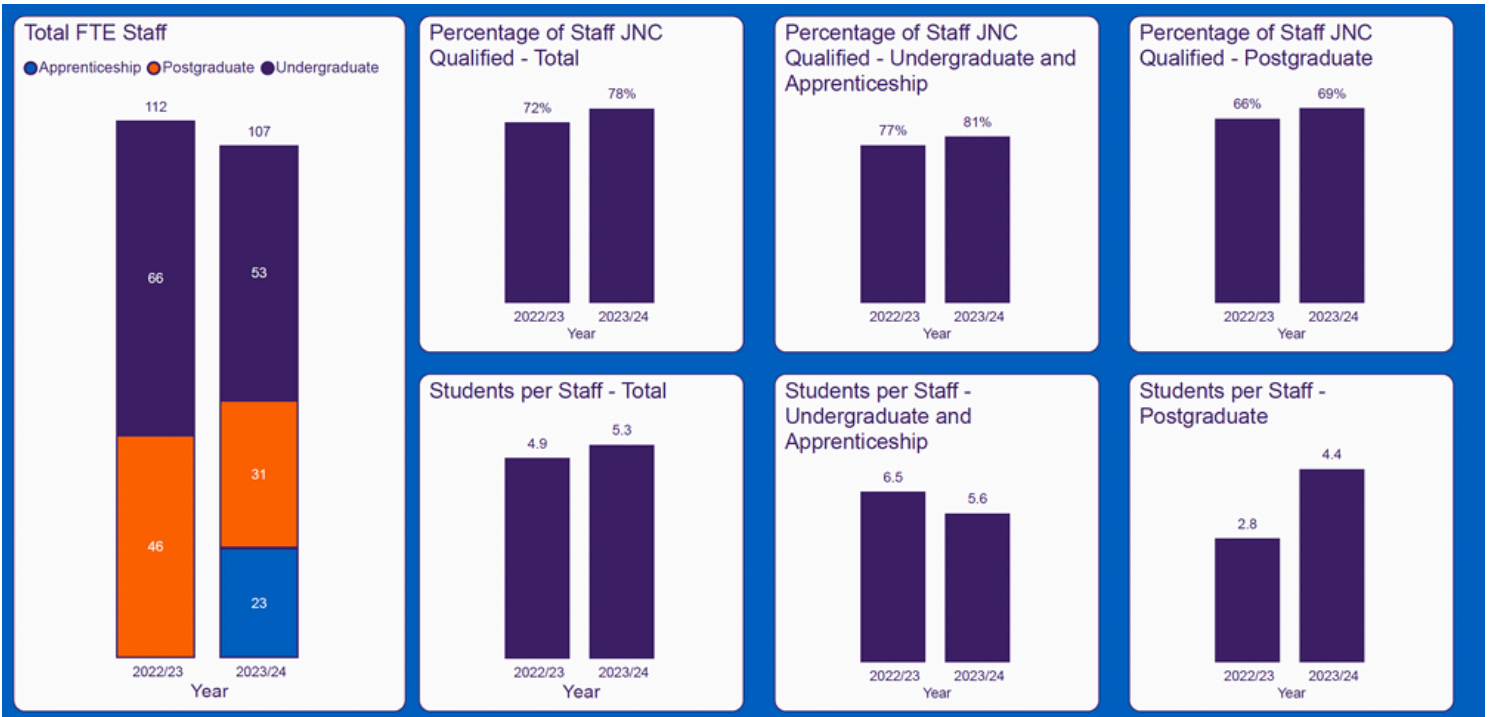


The introduction of apprenticeship courses has meant that the overall number of undergraduate courses per region has only changed in two of nine regions. The North East has gained one undergraduate (apprenticeship) course, and Yorkshire and Humber, despite offering an additional undergraduate (apprenticeship) course, has lost one course. In terms of post graduate courses, East Midlands has lost one course and the North East has gained one course.



## Staffing

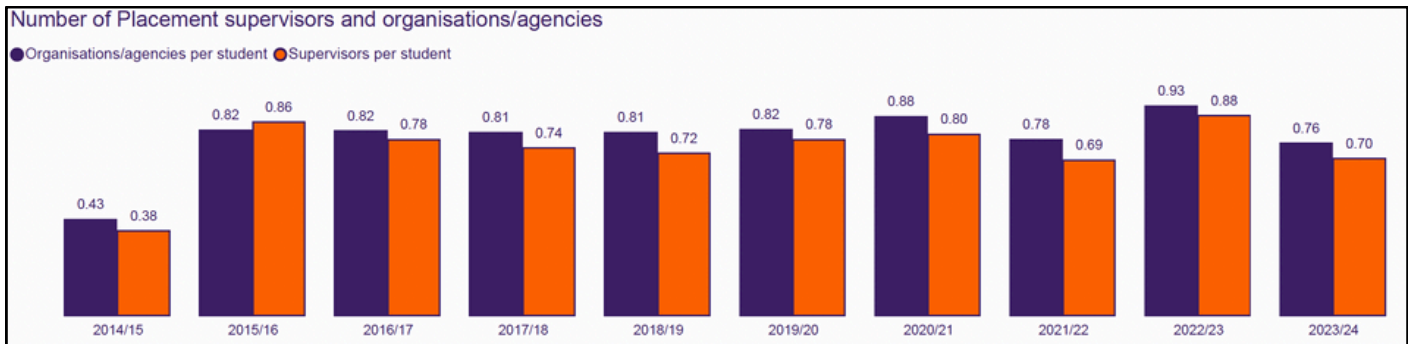
Overall, total numbers of full-time equivalent staff, and the proportion of students to staff remains broadly similar. While there has been a drop in numbers of staff teaching at both undergraduate and postgraduate level this drop is nearly made up by the addition of 23 staff teaching on the apprenticeship courses.



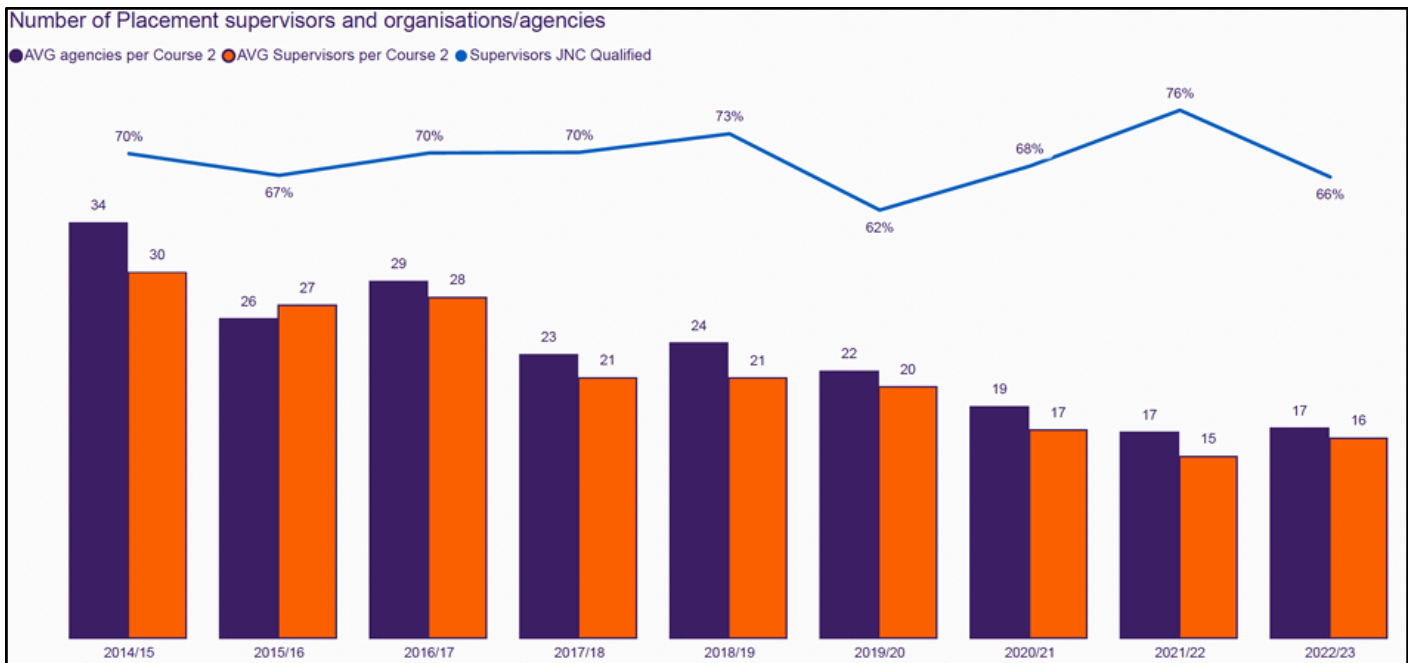
Overall, the percentage of staff with JNC recognised qualifications has increased by 6% to 78% of all staff, this increase is shared equally across those teaching at undergraduate (traditional and apprenticeship) level and those teaching at postgraduate level. While the average number of students to staff has remained broadly similar, 4.9 in 2023/23 to 5.3 in 2023/24, this masks more pronounced differences across the different course types. For undergraduate/apprenticeship level, the ratio has declined from 6.5 (2022/23) to 5.6 in 2023/24. However, at postgraduate level the number of students per staff member has increased from 2.8 (2022/23) to 4.4 in 2023/24.

### Fieldwork placements

The proportion of placement supervisors who are JNC qualified remains largely unchanged at 68% in 2023/24. The mean number of placement agencies and placement supervisors per student has fallen since last year. This is perhaps not surprising as both measures were at their highest in 2022/23 in over the last 10 years.

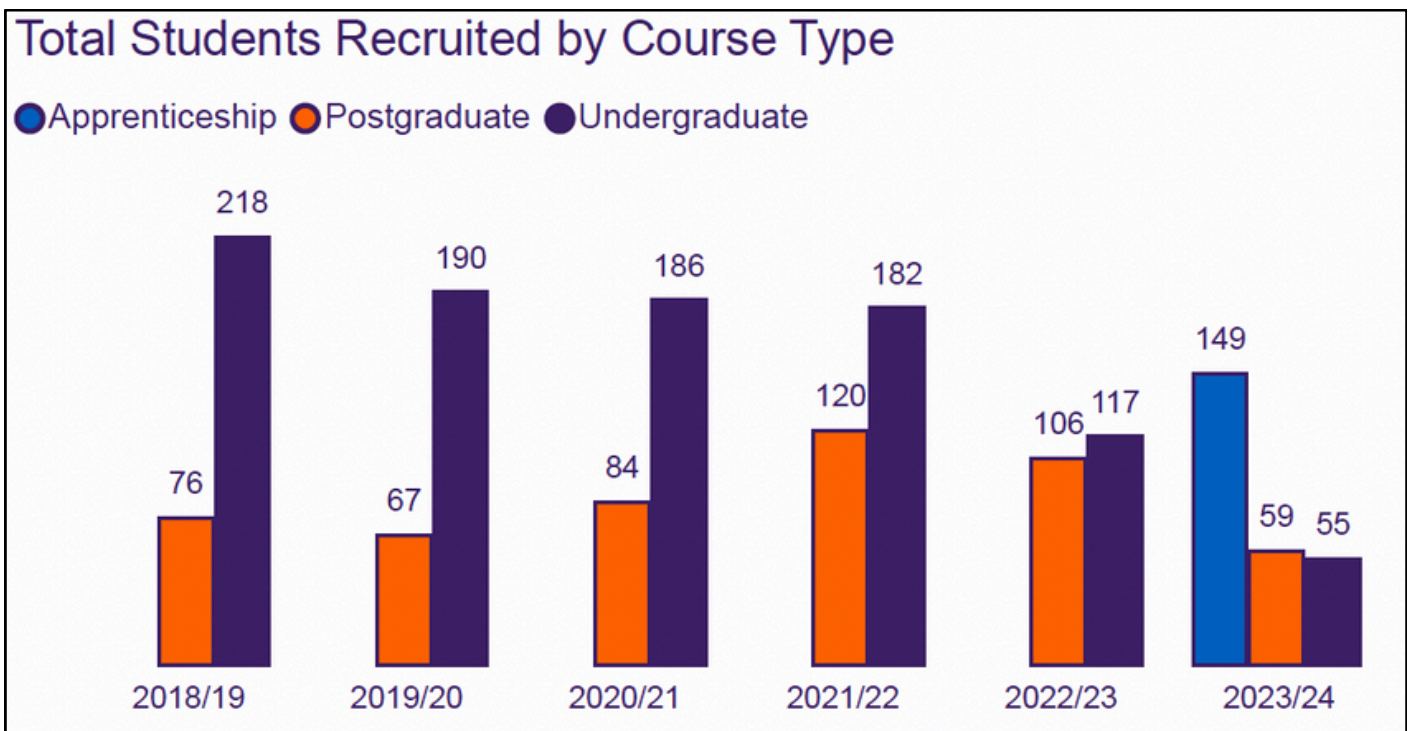
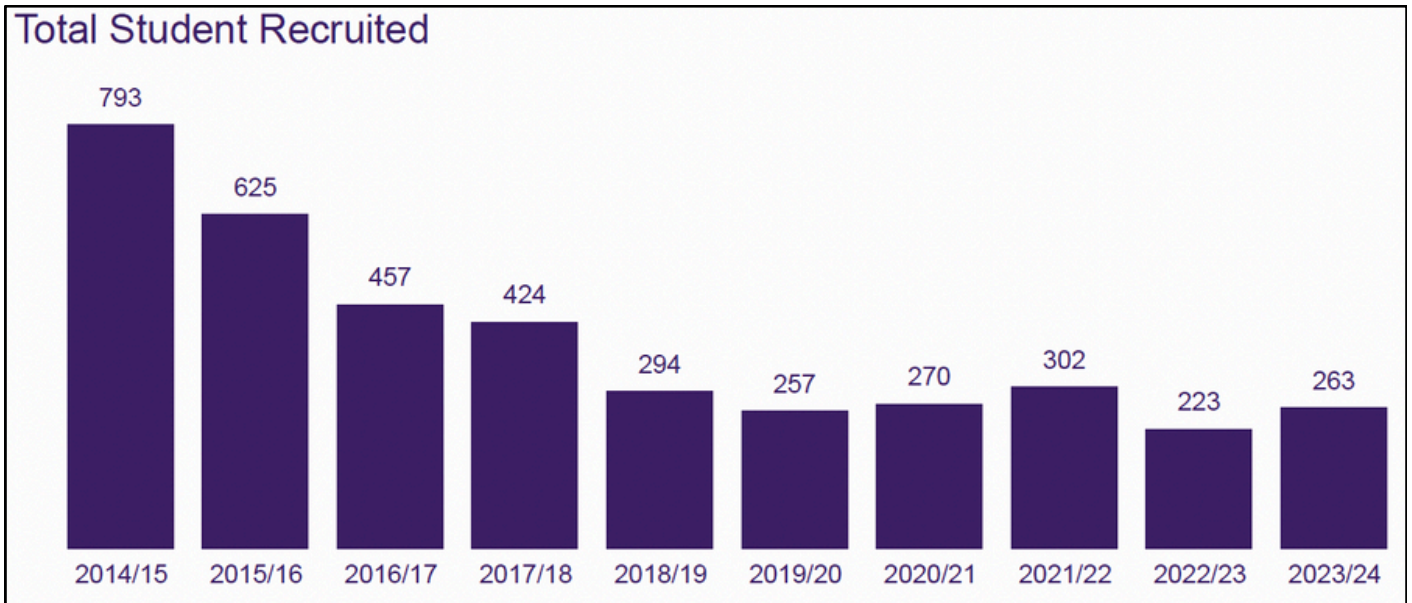


The lack of change in ratio between agencies and supervisors per student is broadly similar when considering ratios at the course level. It is worth noting however, that HEIs report that at the course level, the proportion of supervisors with a JNC recognised qualification has dropped by 10% to 66% of supervisors.



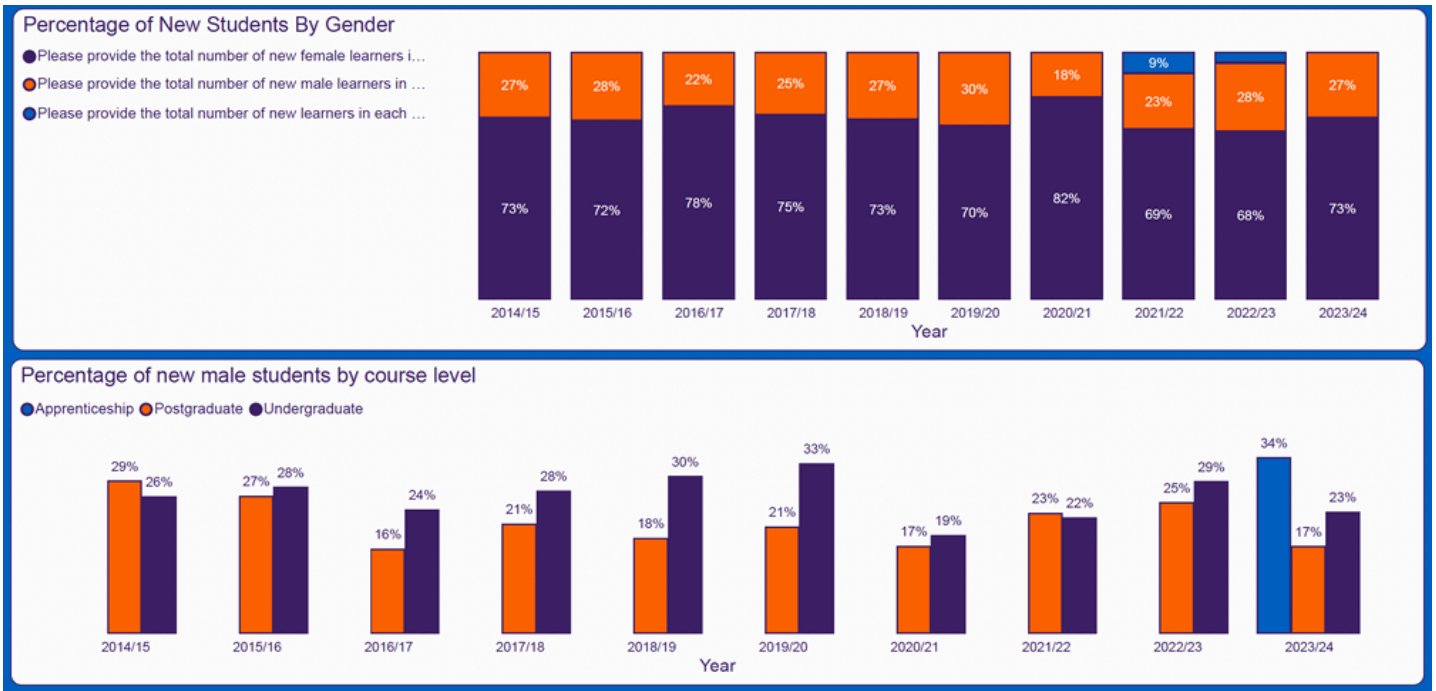
## Recruitment and student numbers

Recruitment of new students has increased by 15 percentage points to 263. This is due to the introduction of the apprenticeship degree and masks a continuing trend across undergraduate and postgraduate courses (both of which saw a decline of about 50% since 2023/23). HEIs report a total of 149 students recruited on the new apprenticeship programme – this compared with only 55 other undergraduates, and 59 postgraduates.



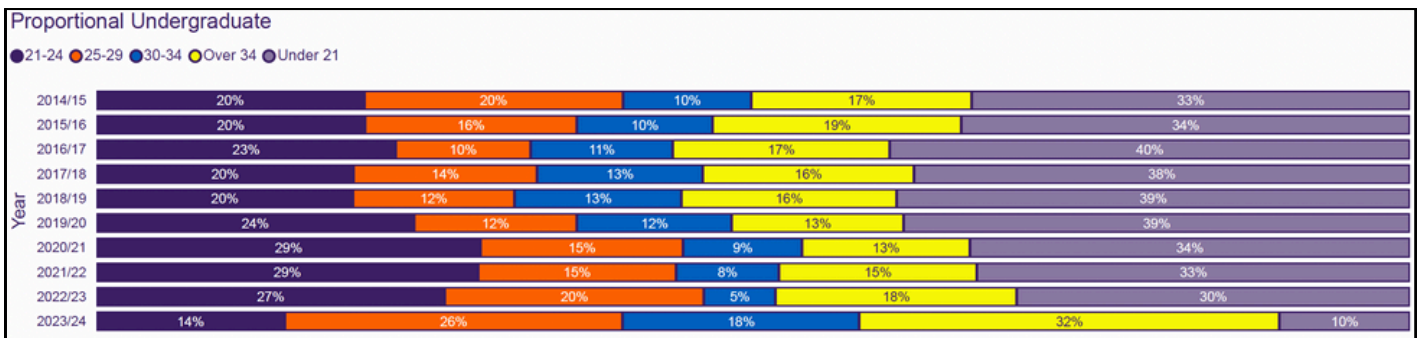
## New student demographics - gender

Male representation in new students recruited across all courses has remained almost unchanged, accounting for 27% of total intake. Female representation increased in 2023/24 by 5 percentage points, accounting for 73% of total intake. No HEIs reported recruiting students of other genders in 2023/24. Representation of males is lowest across postgraduate courses accounting for only 17% of total intake, compared with 23% at the undergraduate level. It is worth noting that males represent over a third (34%) of all participants on the new apprenticeship programmes.

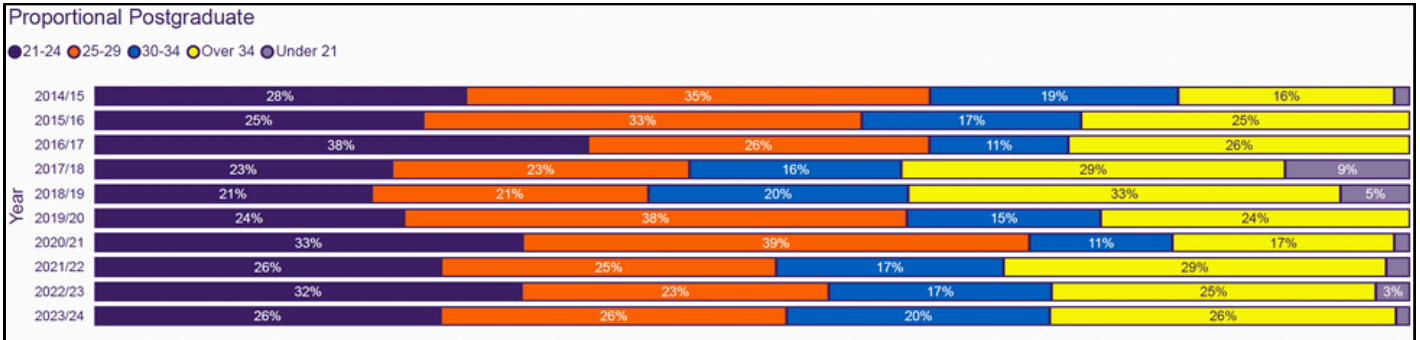


## New student demographics - Age

The age of undergraduate students continues to increase. Only 14% of new students are under 21, the lowest proportion over the last decade. Almost one third of new undergraduates (32%) are over 34 – this is almost double that of 2022/23 (18%). This increase is almost entirely attributable to the apprenticeship cohort of learners.

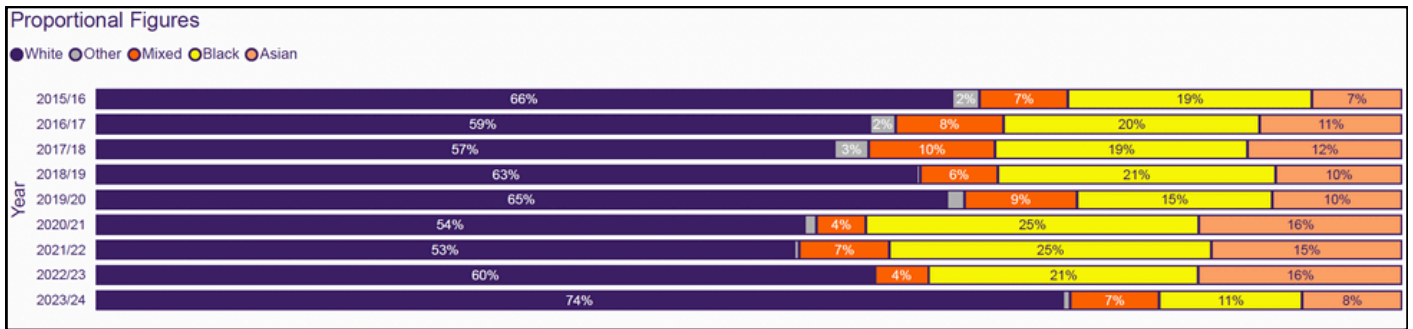


New postgraduate students are also likely to be slightly older than last year, though the change is much smaller.



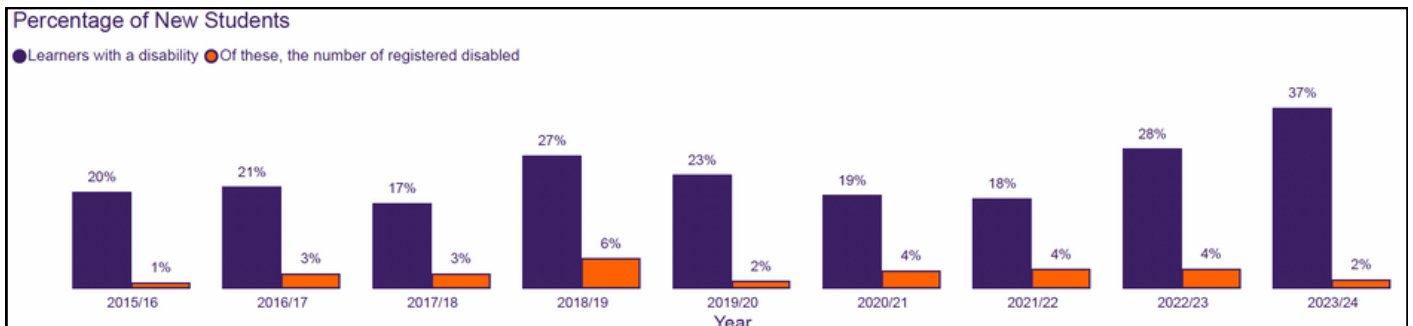
### New student demographics - Ethnicity

In the last three years, the proportion of white students has increased considerably, representing 74% of all new students in 2023/24. The proportion of Black and Asian students has halved, though the number of mixed race students has seen an increase.



### New student demographics - Disability

The proportion of new students indicating that they have a disability has increased by 9% since last year from 28% to 37%. This is considerably higher than the national average across all higher education of 20%. It should be noted however, that the proportion of youth work students registered disabled remains very low.



## New student demographics - Religion

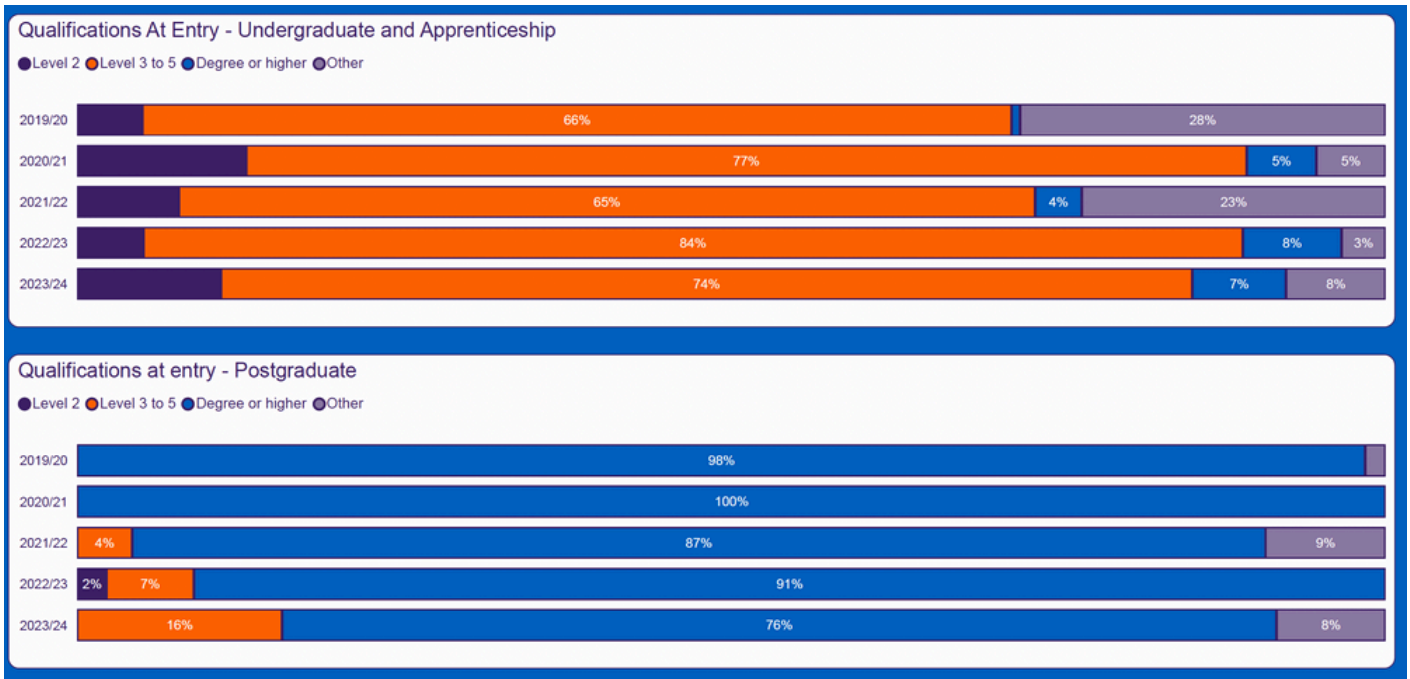
Where data has been collected for religion, new students remain most likely to be Christian, the numbers of students reporting either Muslim or no religion has seen a drop – with only eight students reporting as Muslim (down from 26 in 2022/23) and 14 reporting as no religion (compared with 20 in 2022/23). However, it should be noted that HEIs provided data on religion for only 61 of 263 new students (23%), so this data may not be representative.

## New student demographics - Sexuality

Data for sexuality was only received for 46 out of 263 new students (17%), so this data is likely to not be representative.

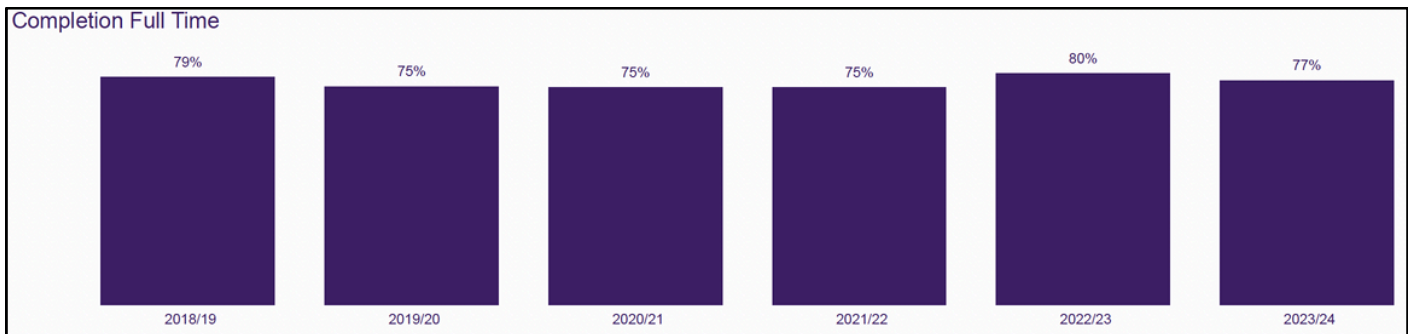
## New student demographics - Qualifications at entry

The majority of course entrants hold a qualification at the level you would assume is appropriate for the qualification i.e. Level 3 to 5 for undergraduate courses, and a degree or higher for postgraduate courses. A small minority are qualified below this, beginning an undergraduate course with highest qualification at Level 2, or a postgraduate qualification qualified to Level 2 to 5. At postgraduate level there has been a slight fall in the proportion of students qualified at degree or higher level, however, in terms of actual numbers of students this is only nine students.



## Current students: Attendance and completion

Typically, the numbers of full-time students with at least 80% attendance has remained fairly constant across all levels of qualification.



There has been an increase of 9% of students at Level 4 achieving over 80% attendance (83%). 80% attendance rates for Level 5 and postgraduates have dropped slightly and remain unchanged for Level 6.

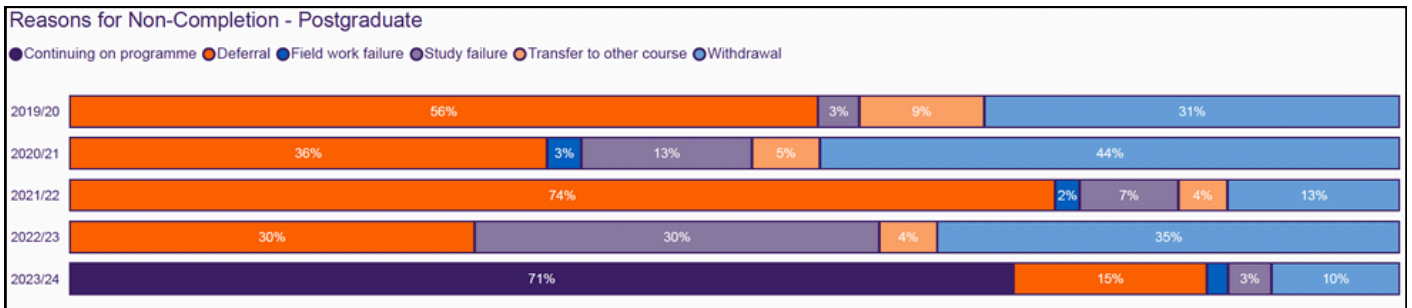
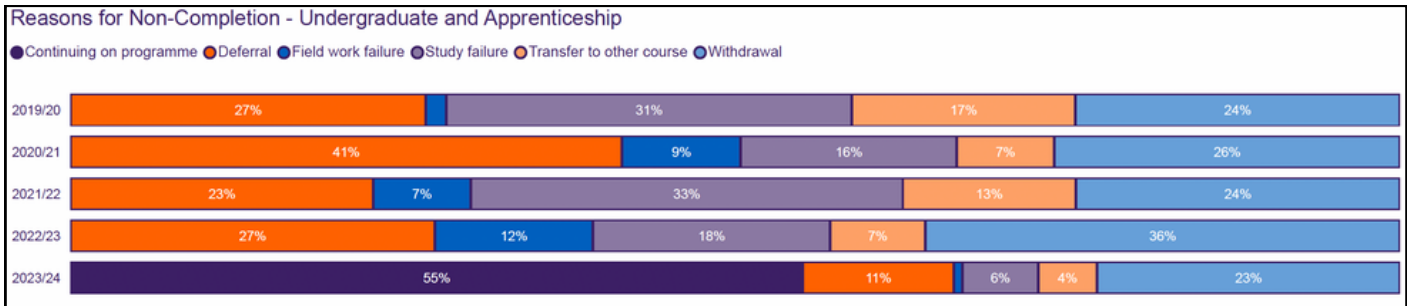
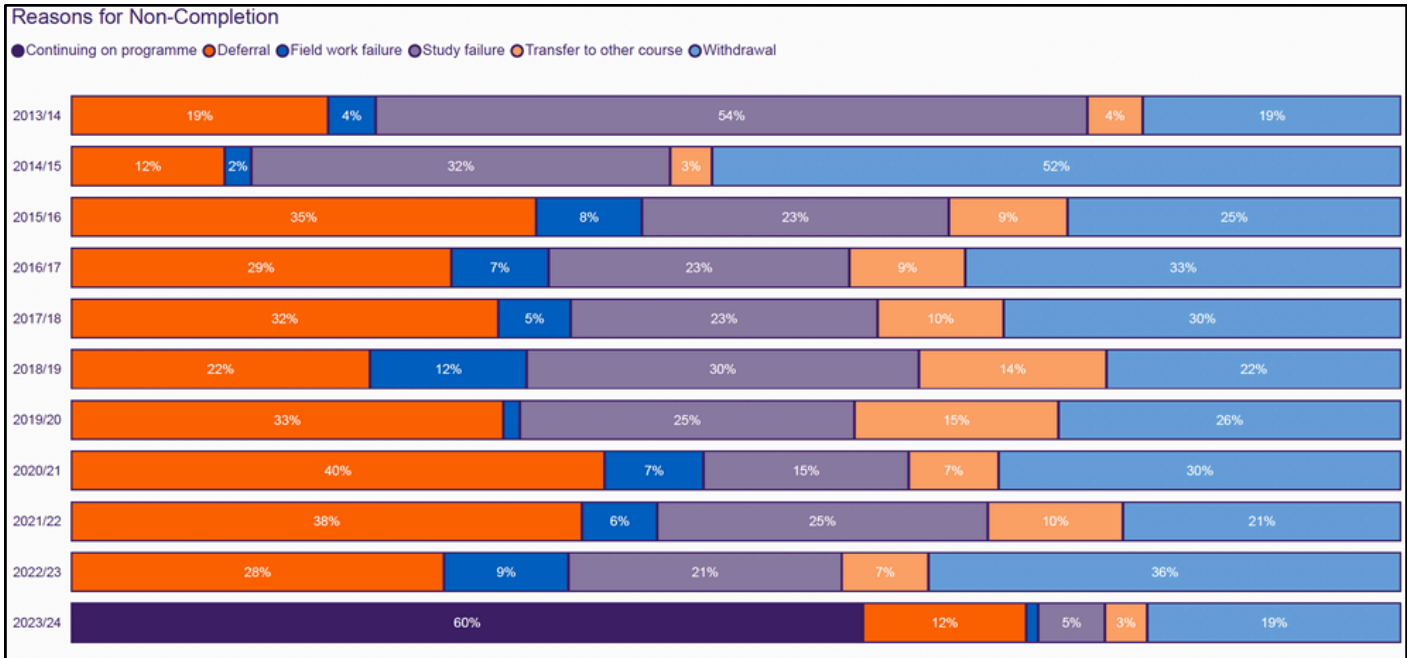
Completion rates for full time students shows a small drop (3%) overall to 77%. However, for those studying part time the completion rate has dropped by 13 percentage points to 38%. When we consider completion rates by course level the picture is different – with Level 4 completion rates at their highest in over five years. However, completion rates for postgraduate students continues a three-year trend of decline – dropping by over 10 percentage points to 60%. However, the relatively low numbers of postgraduate students overall, means care should be taken when interpreting this change.

## Reasons for non-completion

The proportion of students non-completing has decreased by about half across almost all reasons since 2022/23. The most common reason for non-completion across study levels this year remains withdrawal (19%) despite declining overall. Interestingly deferral rates have slightly increased. This is most noticeable at post graduate level.

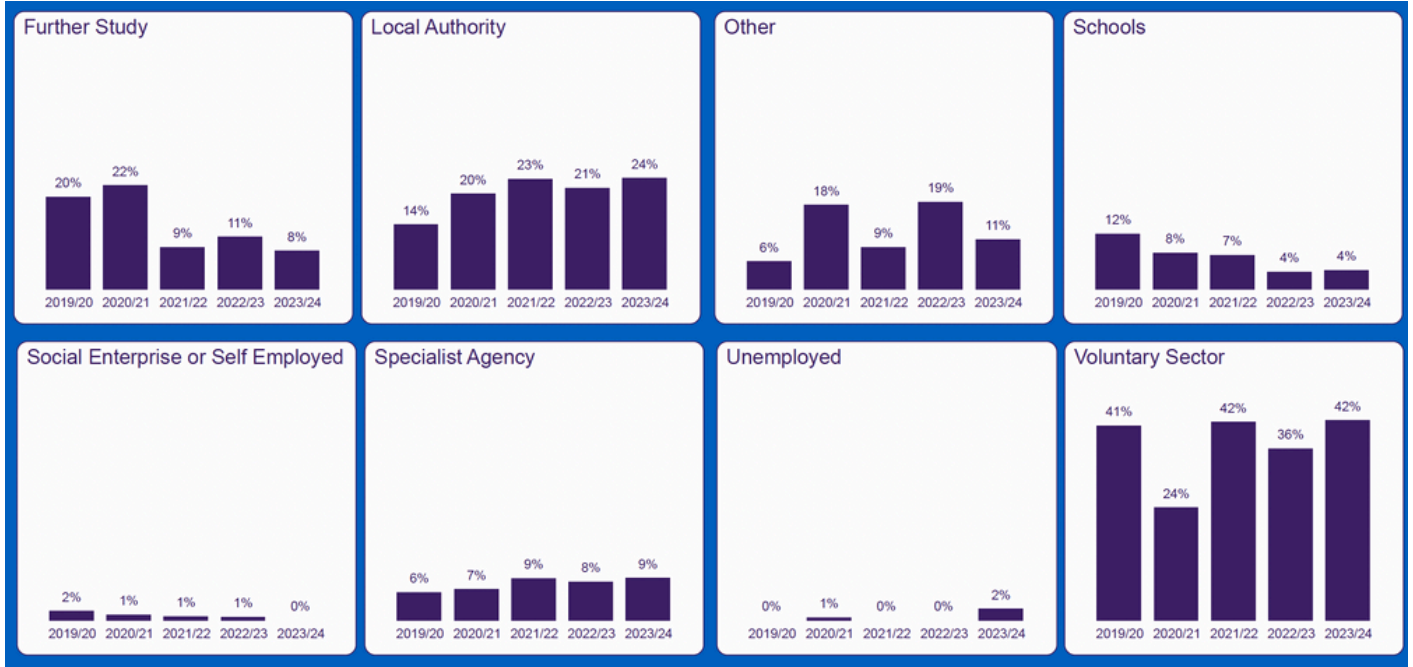
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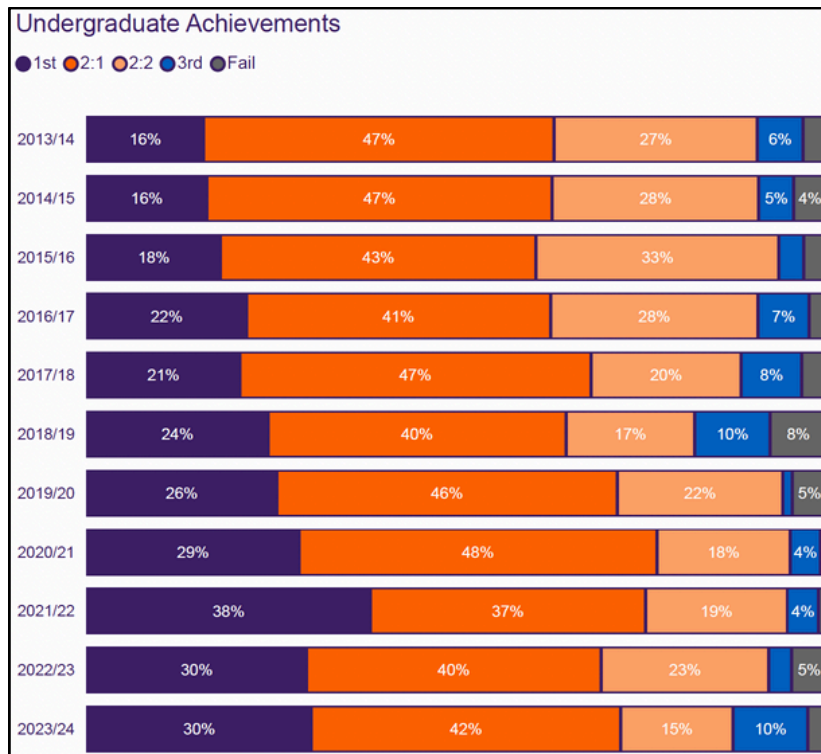


## Achievements and graduate destinations

Voluntary sector and local authority employers typically remain the most common graduate destinations. Of data that HEIs were able to collect, specialist agencies account for nine percent of graduates and eight percent went into further study. Two percent of graduates were unemployed in the last year.



Achievement grades for qualifications remain largely unchanged at both undergraduate and postgraduate levels. 2.1 and Merit are the most common grades for undergraduates and postgraduates respectively. Around 30% achieved the highest possible grades this year.



## NYA's planned activities to support HEIs over the coming year:

The NYA plan to use Youth Work One to promote Youth Work degrees. Currently degrees are listed on the NYA's website through an interactive map, however Youth Work One only lists degrees inputted by HEIs. This year the NYA will input data to ensure all degree programmes are listed on Youth Work One.

The NYA are working with the Student Network which is a new network started by students at Birmingham City University. The NYA are keen to continue to support this network through ongoing promotion and attending Student Network events. Alongside this, the ETS Committee are seeking to recruit a Student Representative to join the Committee.

The NYA are currently undertaking a consultation regarding the qualification framework. Part of this consultation is to explore progression routes into youth work. The NYA will be rolling out the new qualification framework later in 2025 and will promote all the qualification routes into youth work as a career, including higher education courses, and will work with the universities and employers to promote and celebrate student pathways. Alia Pike, National Workforce Officer has been visiting youth work students to share about the work of the NYA and hear from students. This offer will be extended to include Bex Pink, National Digital Innovation Lead and Xyna Prasad, National Safeguarding and Risk Lead. The NYA's continues to build the evidence of the value and impact of youth work and to share this with government to build the case for investment and to engage training and education partners, funders and other partners with our plans to build a strong and sustainable sector.

## Methodology

Results presented in this report are based on HEI submissions. Whilst every effort is made to check the accuracy of this data, we cannot account for incorrect data entry in returns. There may be some minor data inconsistencies as there are differences in the ways in which courses are offered across HEIs. While data is presented here in an 'academic year' basis, some courses have multiple intake periods. Figures are also complicated by students opting to defer their completion and/or being required to take resits. Where these inconsistencies are known they are indicated.

## About the National Youth Agency

As the national body for youth work in England, the National Youth Agency exists to champion youth work and grow provision in ways that keep it effective, relevant, safe and engaging, to help millions of young people reach their potential and thrive. We do this by providing guidance, support, advice, training and staff development opportunities for youth workers and youth work organisations.



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